



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1104 North Westover BLVD, Unit 9
ALBANY, GEORGIA 31707

JUN 24 2009

Regulatory Division
200900562

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: 200900562

Applicant: Colonel Thomas Macdonald, Garrison Commander
Fort Benning, Georgia 31905

Location of Proposed Work: The project area is located approximately 5.5-miles southeast of the intersection of GA Hwy 27/1 and 1st Division Road along the east side of Jamestown Road, on the southern portion of Fort Benning. Coordinates for the center of the maneuver area are Latitude 32.280288° and Longitude 84.825705°.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: This project (69358) proposes to impact 1.69 acres of wetlands and 1,617 linear feet of stream for the construction of an upgraded road to support large tractor trailers transporting tanks traffic from a Tank Wash area in the Harmony Church Cantonment Area on the northeast side of Highway 27/280 toward the training range areas of the Good Hope Maneuver Area. The project will provide a new bridge crossing US Highway 27/280 and continue across Old Cusseta Road along an existing tank trail known as Kelly Road to its intersection with Axton Road. From this point, the new roadway will parallel Axton Road to Jamestown Road and will continue south on Jamestown Road to a point just north of the Weems Pond Dam. At this point, the road will divert from the existing Jamestown Road westward to route HETS traffic around the Weems Pond Dam as it has been determined that the dam is insufficient to carry the HETS traffic. The new road will tie back in to Jamestown Road south of Weems Pond and will terminate at the intersection of Jamestown Road and Lightning Road. This project is included in the Maneuver Center of Excellence Environmental Impact Statement.

Mitigation Plan

Fort Benning is proposing to mitigate these impacts by acquiring 8.6 wetland credits and 5,147.4 stream credits thru the proposed Ft Benning 2008, 2009 and 2010 mitigation plan.

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required by an applicant for a Federal Permit to conduct an activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can also be seen in the Savannah District US Army Corps of Engineers, Albany Field Office, 1104 N. Westover Blvd, Unit 9, Albany, Georgia.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: The US Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning is the lead federal agency for this proposed action. Historic and Cultural Resources Surveys and Assessments were included in an MCOE EIS that is currently being performed by Fort Benning. As soon as the assessments are completed, a copy of the results will be forwarded to the appropriate offices for review. Fort Benning will meet all lead federal agency responsibilities pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, prior to any work occurring in waters of the US subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE.

Endangered Species: The US Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning is the lead federal agency for this proposed action. Threatened and Endangered Species Assessments were included in an MCOE EIS that is currently being performed by Fort Benning. As soon as the surveys and assessments are completed, a copy of the results will be forwarded to the appropriate offices for

review. Fort Benning will meet all lead federal agency responsibilities pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, prior to any work occurring in waters of the US subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b) (1) Guidelines: Project Purpose and need: Fort Benning, located approximately 80 miles southwest of Atlanta, is the home of the United States Army Infantry Center, 3rd Brigade 3rd Infantry Division, and various non-divisional and tenant units. The relocation of the USA Armor Center from Fort Knox, KY to Fort Benning will result in the stationing of approximately 14,000 additional personnel at the installation (including students). A majority of the facilities required for the Armor Center will be built at Harmony Church. New utility distribution systems and roadway upgrade are required to support the required facilities. Training area roadway improvements are required to provide safe and secure access into Fort Benning's training areas. Access to and within four major training maneuver areas is required to support mission training: OSUT Maneuver Training Area, Northern Maneuver Training Area, Good Hope Maneuver Training Area, and Southeastern Maneuver Training Area.

The objective of this project is to upgrade existing training area infrastructure roads and drainage to support increased access and training use. The current situation of the existing training roads does not support the increased trafficability and training throughput associated with tracked vehicle use. If this project is not provided, mission support to Fort Benning will be reduced. Safe

and efficient access to existing training land and other planned training area development will be limited.

Alternative Site Evaluation: This project was planned with the most direct route for vehicles to get to the Good Hope Maneuver Area. Since vehicles will be stored and Soldiers housed in the Harmony Church area the most practical route for this project was to follow Jamestown Road. Conditions allowed for the proposed tank trails to be aligned along side of this existing road, therefore, minimizing the need for completely new road construction and reducing overall jurisdictional wetland and stream impacts. This area provided the best and only option for this training facility. Therefore, no other more feasible alternative sites exist on this military installation for this project.

Avoidance and Minimization: The proposed project incorporates many features that will minimize the adverse impacts to the jurisdictional areas on-site. The site plan itself has been revised to directly impact fewer linear feet of stream habitat and acres of wetland habitat than the original conceptual site plans. In addition, every effort has been made to ensure that sediment during construction will be retained on-site, and sediment basins within the developed area, where applicable, will retain and filter the first flush of sediment and toxicants from storm water run-off before discharging into the adjacent streams. All applicable and reasonably achievable erosion and sediment control and water quality enhancement measures will be utilized to minimize impacts to the downstream portions of the streams. Numerous revisions were made to the project design plans to reduce jurisdictional impacts as much as possible. Originally, by locating the proposed tank trails along existing roads, it allowed for the total amount of impacts to be reduced dramatically. As the design process continued, trails were realigned to avoid jurisdictional areas wherever and whenever possible. Also, construction area and clearing limits has been minimized as much as possible to lessen the footprint of the project. Approximately 7 acres of wetlands and 670 linear feet of stream were avoided.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Albany Field Office, 1104 N. Westover Blvd, Unit 9, Albany, Georgia. 31707, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

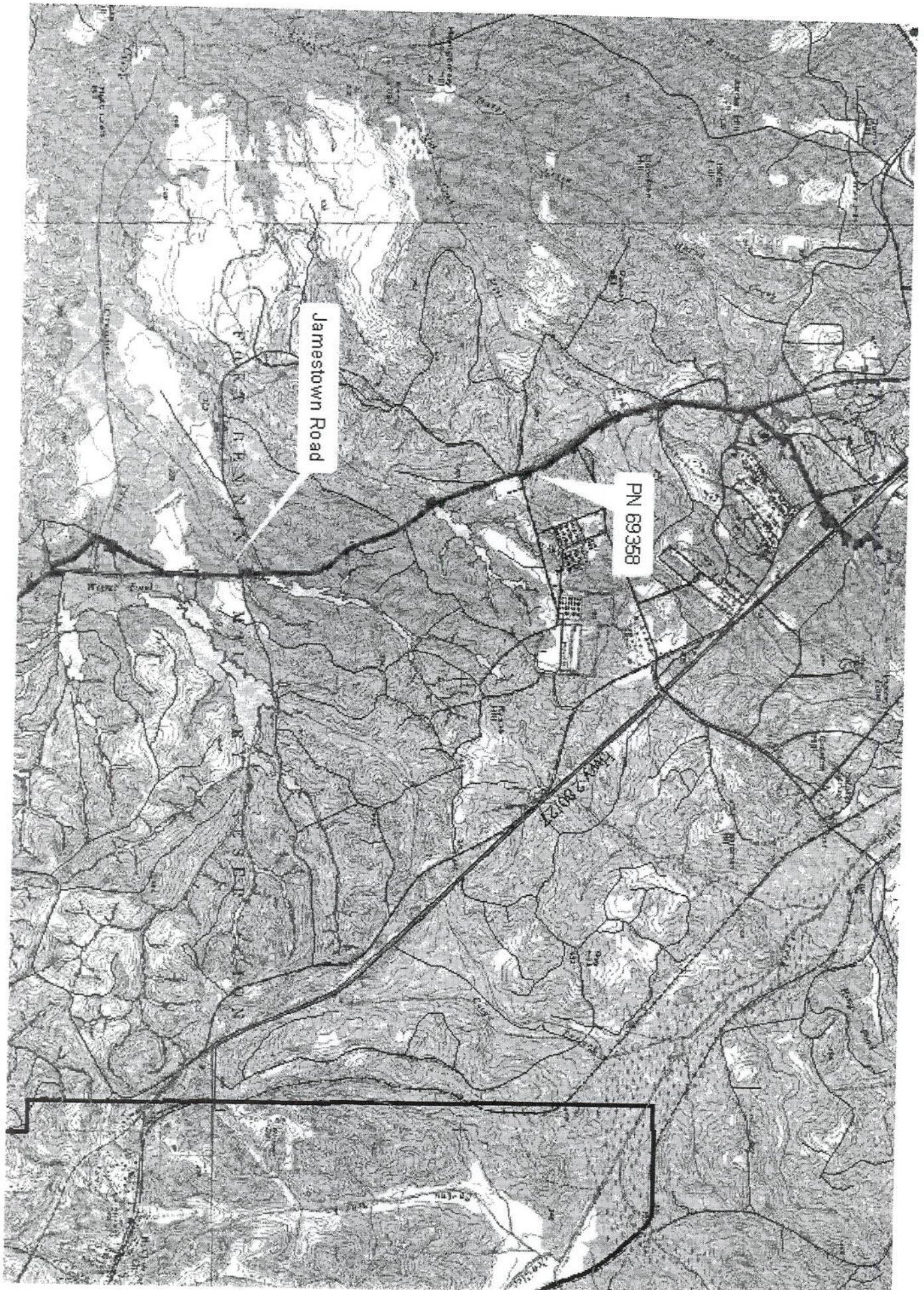
If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Thomas Fischer, at (229) 430-8566.

Enclosures

PN 69358



Highway 280/27



Jamestown Road



ACCESS ROAD TO GOOD HOPE MANEUVER AREA
PROJECT NUMBER L.I. 89368
STREAM / WETLAND IMPACTS
JUNE 2009



5

END PROJECT

EIGHTH DIVISION RD

KELLY DR

AXTON RD

4

HOURLASS RD

CROSBIE ROAD

US 27 / 280

OLD CUSETTA RD

3

JAMESTOWN RD

FUHRMAN ROAD

2

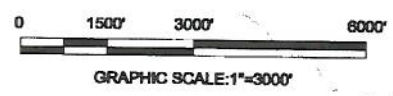
YANKEE ROAD

WEEMS POND

1

BEGIN PROJECT

LIGHTNING ROAD



Impact Area 1




JAMESTOWN ROAD

LIGHTNING ROAD

0 350' 700' 1400'

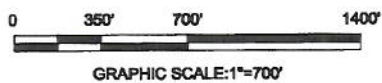
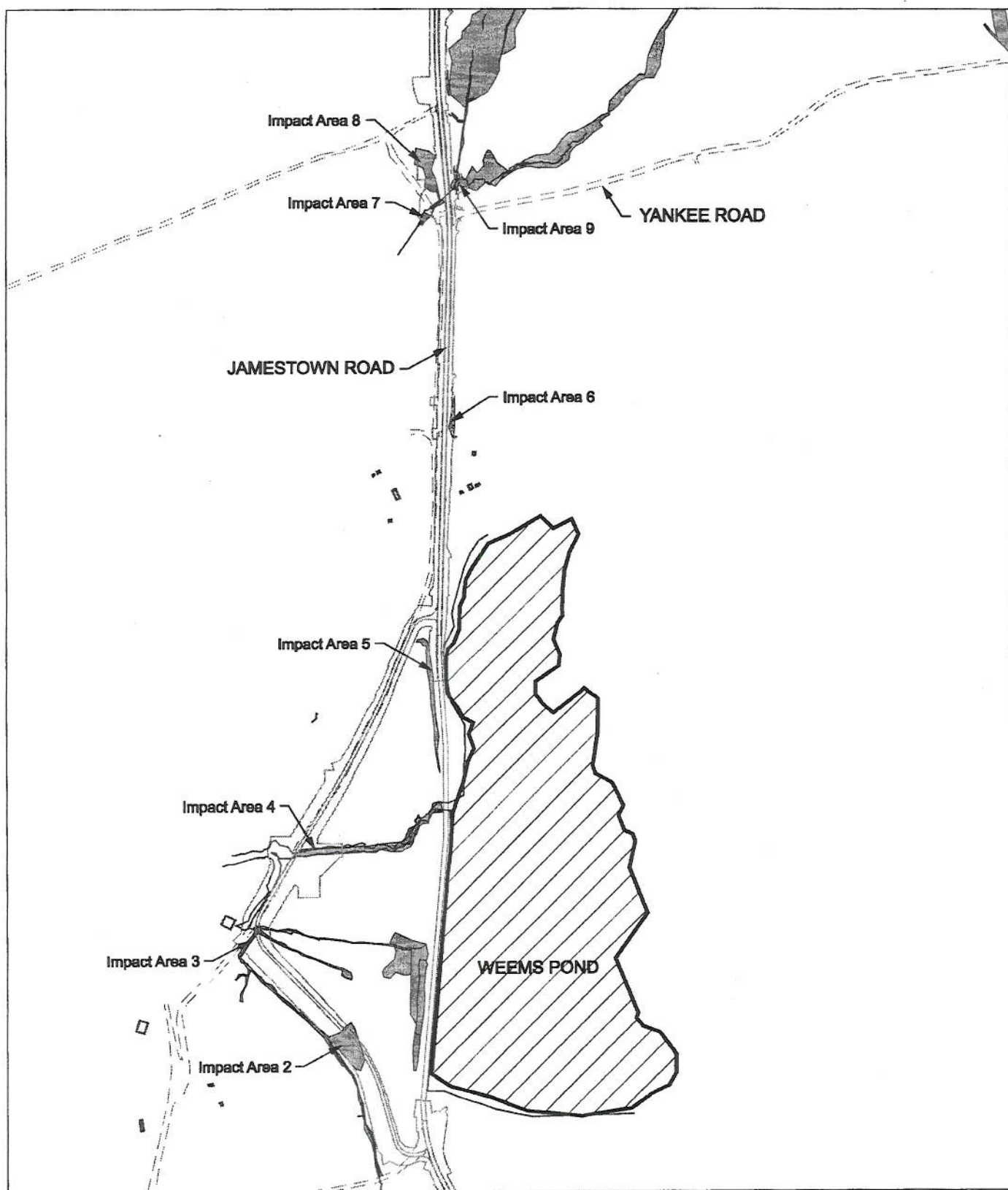
GRAPHIC SCALE: 1"=700'

Legend

-  Proposed Access Road
-  Delineated Streams
-  Delineated Wetlands

Access Road to Good Hope Manuever Area
Project Number L.I. 69358
Stream / Wetland Impacts
June 2009





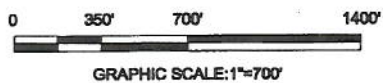
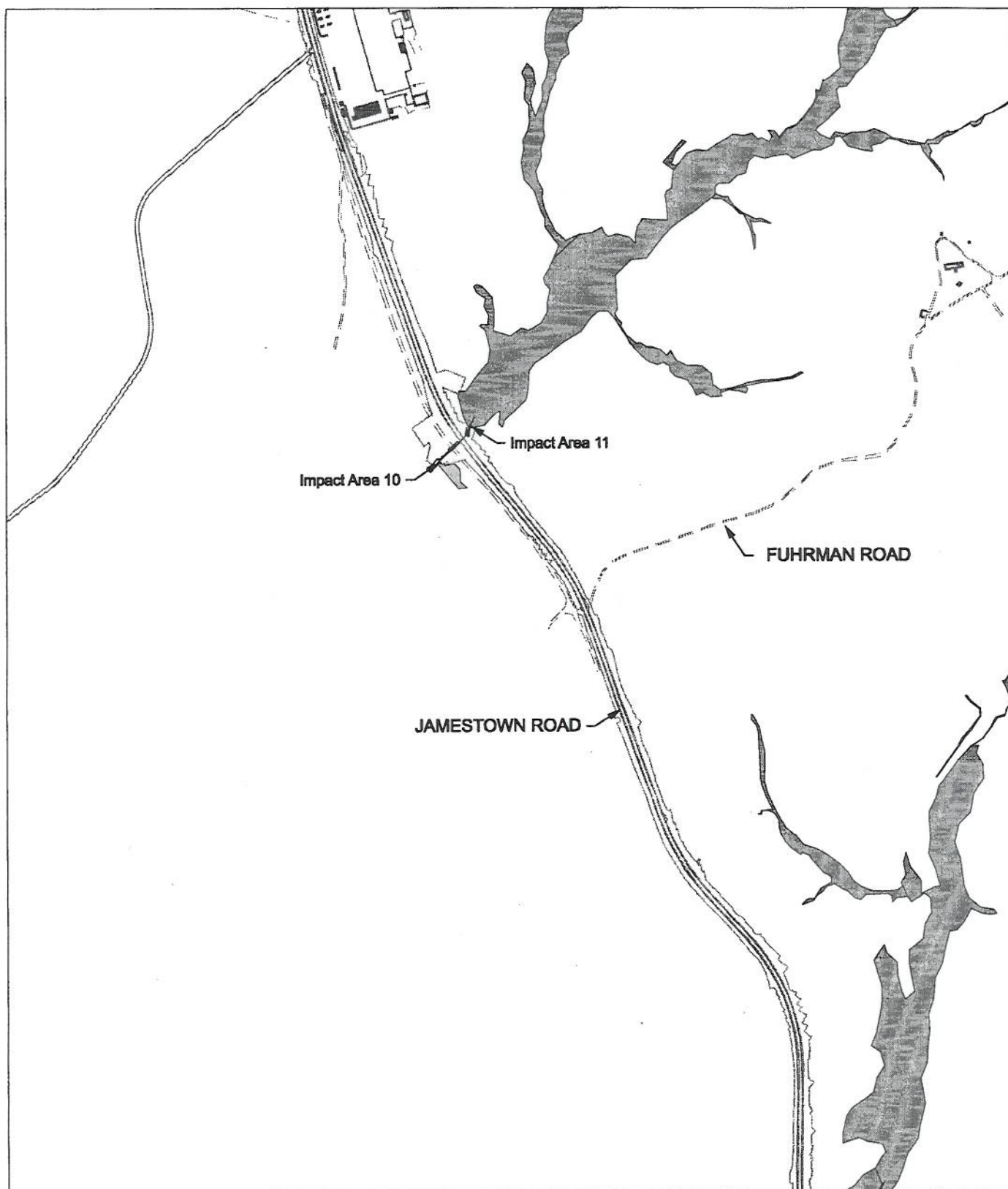
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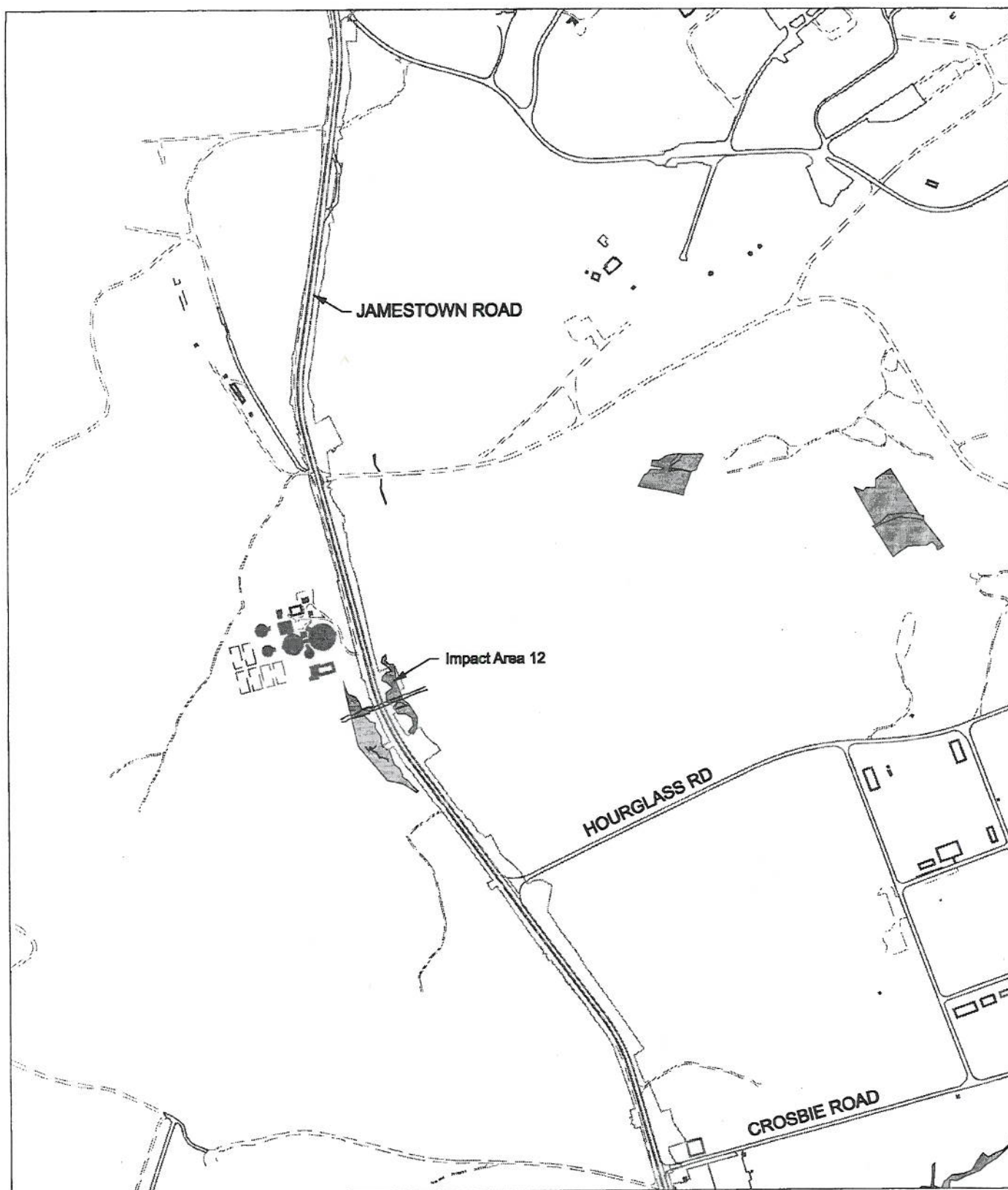


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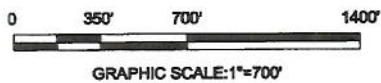
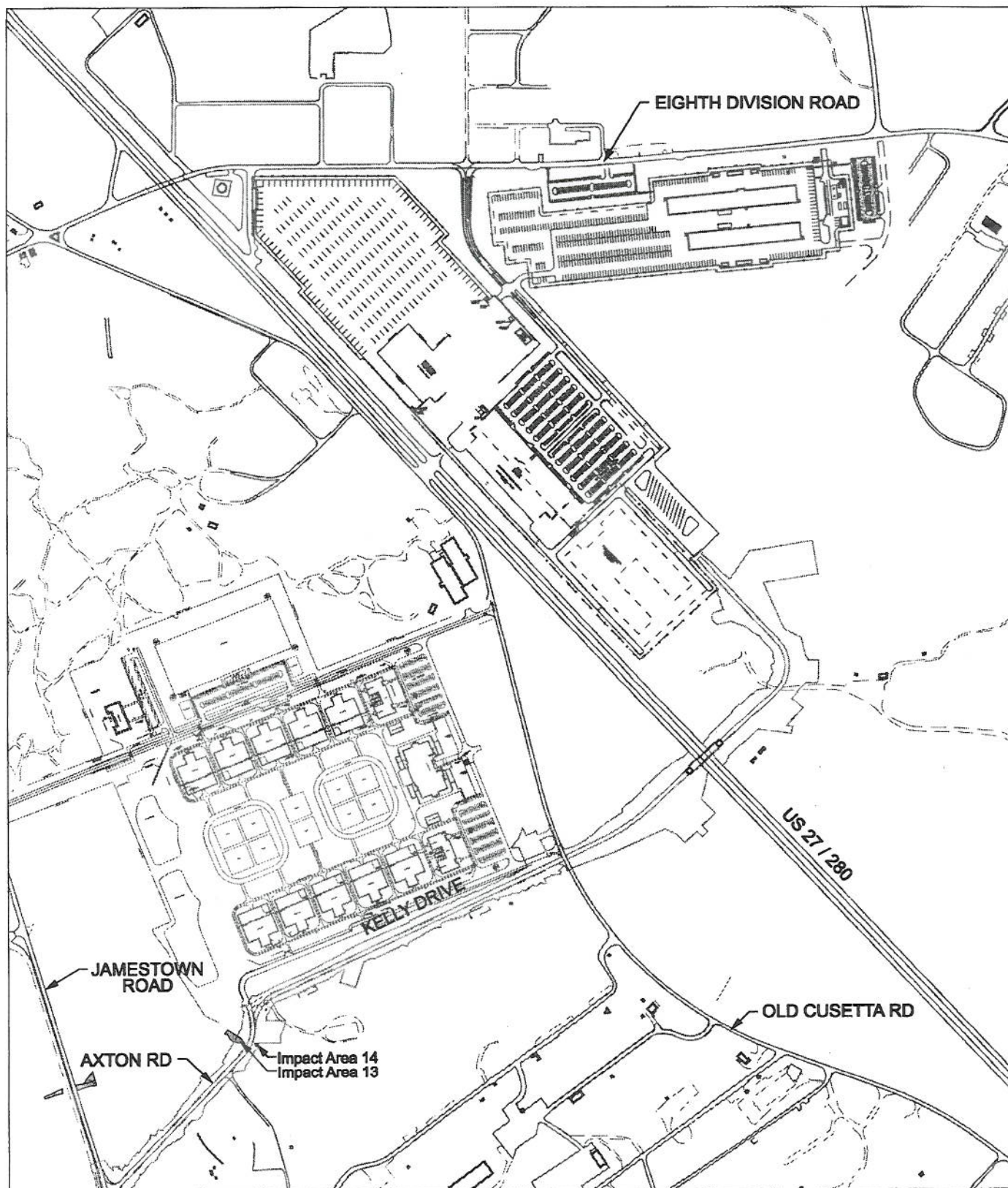
0 350' 700' 1400'
GRAPHIC SCALE: 1"=700'

Legend




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-  Delineated Streams
-  Delineated Wetlands

Access Road to Good Hope Manuever Area
Project Number L.I. 69358
Stream / Wetland Impacts
June 2009





Legend

-  Proposed Access Road
-  Delineated Streams
-  Delineated Wetlands

Access Road to Good Hope Manuever Area
Project Number L.I. 69358
Stream / Wetland Impacts

June 2009



**Access Road to Good Hope Manuever Area
Fort Benning, PN 69358**

**Wetland / Stream Impacts
June 2009**

Delineated Wetland Impacts

Impact Area	Location	Wetland Size (Acres)	Area Impacted (Acres)
1	Jamestown Rd	0.213	0.124
2	Jamestown Rd	3.075	0.559
3	Jamestown Rd	3.075	0.071
4	Jamestown Rd	0.746	0.187
5	Jamestown Rd	0.354	0.043
6	Jamestown Rd	0.098	0.040
7	Jamestown Rd	0.043	0.027
8	Jamestown Rd	0.449	0.286
9	Jamestown Rd	30.772	0.057
10	Jamestown Rd	0.267	0.049
11	Jamestown Rd	25.382	0.026
12	Jamestown Rd	0.551	0.182
13	Axton Rd	0.080	0.031
14	Axton Rd	0.005	0.005
Total:		65.110ac	1.687ac

Delineated Stream Impacts

Impact Area	Location	Stream Impacted (LF)	Ex Pipe (LF)	Inlet/Outlet Allowance (LF)	Net Impact (LF)
3	Jamestown Rd	841	41.2	20	779.8
4	Jamestown Rd	420	63.5	20	336.5
7,8,9	Jamestown Rd	420	88.2	20	311.8
10,11	Jamestown Rd	329	120.1	20	188.9
12	Jamestown Rd	93	102	20	0
Total:					1617ft